

April 3, 2025

Mr. Carr
FCC Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Carr,

My name is Sabrina Allen, and I am a member of the Texas GMRS Network (TexasGMRS.net). We operate over 25 repeaters across Texas, which were previously networked together via the internet. Unfortunately, we had to deactivate this networking feature following recent clarification from the FCC, stating that GMRS repeaters cannot be networked via the internet. This change has had a significant impact on our operations and community.

While the repeaters were networked, we experienced minimal issues. Texans were able to communicate across vast distances, from Houston to El Paso, Dallas, and beyond. We had more than 20 moderators who were able to quickly disconnect a repeater if there was an abuser or stuck microphone. We also held weekly nets with as many as 70 participants. People from other states could join our network and communicate with us from as far away as New York.

One of the most beneficial aspects of GMRS is that families can communicate under the same license. This was especially useful when users were traveling out of town. With repeaters linked together, someone could stay connected with family and friends while away. We, as Texas GMRS, a legal nonprofit organization, have been assisting in setting up new repeaters and providing both equipment and financial assistance. This network was growing rapidly before the FCC's ruling, but now, with the loss of our internet networking feature, our membership is dwindling, and equipment is going unrepaired.

In addition, Transtar, a government entity that used to rely on our frequencies for traffic and weather monitoring, is now receiving very little communication. This is because our repeater located at their tower facility now operates as a stand-alone unit, only covering a portion of the Houston area.

As a new FCC Chairman, I respectfully ask that you reconsider the ruling on GMRS repeater networking. Re-enabling this feature would provide a safer and more efficient communication alternative for drivers, as it does not require taking eyes off the road to operate a mic—something I can personally attest to, having been in several accidents while attempting to use my phone. GMRS offers a safer, more reliable means of communication, especially for those in remote areas or during emergencies.

Additionally, GMRS fosters community-building and encourages technological development, much like amateur radio does. We share a commitment to enhancing our skills and improving the technology, which ultimately benefits all of us.

Please consider my request to allow internet networking of GMRS repeaters, not only for safety and convenience but also for the growth of our community, friendships, and as a meaningful hobby for so many of us.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Allen
Texas GMRS Network